

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2419

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 4795

CALCUTTA 815 FOLLOWS . SENT TO NEW DELHI FOR ACTION ON 4 APRIL 77.
BEING RPT FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CALCUTTA 0815

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, IN
SUBJ: FUTURE OF COMMUNISM IN INDIA

1. WE REPORT HERWITH THE MAIN POINTS THAT EMERGED FROM CON-
VERSATION ONE OF OUR POLITICAL FSLs HAD WITH A MIDDLE-LEVEL
WEST BENGAL CPI FIGURE, DILIP BOSE, OVER THE WEEKEND, WHICH
WE FOUND INTERESTING. BOSE IS A CPI INTELLECTUAL AND PROPAGANDIST.

2. BOSE SAID REASONS FOR THE CPI'S DEBACLE IN THE LOK SABHA
WERE QUITE SIMPLE, I.E. THE CPI'S ALLIANCE WITH CONGRESS
AND THE SOVIET UNION'S SUPPORT OF MRS. GANDHI. BOTH IDENTIFIED
THE CPI IN THE MINDS OF THE VOTERS WITH CONGRESS AND
MRS. GANDHI AND CAUSED IT TO BE ENGULFED IN THE JANATA
TIDAL WAVE.

3. BOSE THOUGHT THE BLOW DELT THE CPI IN THE MARCH 16 ELECTIONS
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TIONS WOULD HAVE LONG-LASTING EFFECT. HE SAW LITTLE FUTURE
FOR THE PARTY FOR THE NEXT TEN TO TWENTY YEARS. HE THOUGHT
THE CPI WOULD BE "A VERY INSIGNIFICANT FACTOR" IN INDIAN
POLITICS, LIKE THE CPGB IN BRITAIN.

4. BOSE SAID THE CPM'S STRATEGY OF OPPOSING CONGRESS AND
AVOIDING IDENTIFICATION WITH THE USSR - WHICH HE LIKENED

TO EUROCOMMUNISM - HAD PAID OFF. HE THOUGHT THE CPM WOULD REMAIN STRONG IN WEST BENGAL, TRIPURA AND KERALA AND MIGHT EVEN COME TO POWER IN THOSE STATES. BUT HE DID NOT EXPECT CPM TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS ELSEWHERE. INDIAN POLITICS WOULD BE DOMINATED BY THE "TWO BIG CENTER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES," JANATA AND CONGRESS, WHICH BOSE SAW AS HAVING FEW POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES.

5. BOSE SAW NO PROSPECT OF THE CPI'S JOINING UP WITH THE CPM; IN THE FIRST PLACE THE CPM WOULD NOT HAVE THE CPI, EVEN ON THE MOST HUMILIATING TERMS. HOWEVER, HE SAID POSSIBILITY COULD NOT BE RULED OUT OF LEFT WING FACTION OF THE WEST BENGAL CPI, UNDER BISWANATH MUKHERJEE, SPLITTING OFF FROM THE PARTY AND SETTING UP ON ITS OWN OR JOINING THE CPM.
KORN

UNQUOTE
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

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